President’s Message

Greetings FS3 members. I hope you are having a great 2014. We are nearing the end of this year so we wanted to put out another newsletter to highlight some of our great achievements for 2014 and to get everyone to start thinking about and planning for next year’s SOT.

We had a great SOT in sunny Arizona this year. We had an informational session and three workshops sponsored by FS3. We also had 3 outstanding award winners, 2 for the Burdock award and 1 for the Frank Lu award. We had a decent turnout of 60 people at our food safety specialty section member’s meeting. I hope that we have an even bigger turnout next year.

Following SOT, we elected our new officers for this year. Welcome to our new vp-elect, Laurie C Dolan (former councilor), two new councilors, Xiao Pan (former graduate student representative) and Mansi Krishan (2014 Frank Lu award winner), our new secretary/treasurer, Rachel Hao and our new graduate representative, Erica Clark (2014 Burdock Award winner). One of the topics discussed during the member’s meeting that we took a vote on during the elections was the possibility of changing the name of our specialty section from food safety to something that is more inclusive of vitamins, supplements, herbal medicines, etc. Unfortunately, while many were in support of changing the name, there wasn’t unanimous interest in any of the new name options included. We may revisit this topic again this year so please send us ideas for more inclusive names.

SOT 2015 is just around the corner. We encourage everyone to consider applying for the 2015 officer positions; we’ll need two new councilors and a new vp-elect. Please also think about nominating young scientists for next year’s Frank Lu and Burdock awards. We had a great number of symposia and workshop proposals on food safety topics for the 2015 SOT. Congratulations to those that were accepted. The deadline for 2016 SOT symposia and workshops is right after the 2015 SOT (end of March) so start planning now.

Lastly, we lost a great food safety scientist and charter member of the food safety specialty section. Our very own Dr. Frank Lu, the originator of the Frank Lu Food Safety Endowment Fund passed away. We’ve included a tribute to Dr. Frank Lu to highlight many of his impactful publications to the field of food safety and the ongoing award in his honor that fosters the interest of students in food safety for years to come.

Nicola Stagg, Ph.D., D.A.B.T.
Welcome, New Officers!

2014-15
FS3 Officers

President
Nicola Stagg
staggn@gene.com

Vice President
Brent Kobielush
brent.kobielush@genmills.com

Vice President-Elect
Laurie Dolan
ldolan@burdockgroup.com

Past President/Councilor
Dan Wilson
ddwilson@dow.com

Treasurer/secretary
Ruixin Hao
ruh185@psu.edu

Councilors
Jaspreet Gujral
jaspreet.gujral@wrigley.com

Mansi Krishan
krishami@mail.uc.edu

Xiao Pan
xiao.pan@mjn.com

Yu (Janet) Zang
janet.zang@fda.hhs.gov

Graduate Representative
Erica Clark
Clarkerica7@gmail.com

Postdoctoral Representative
Brenna Flannery
Brenna.flannery@fda.hhs.gov

Ruixin Hao, Ph.D., Treasurer/Secretary
Dr. Hao received her Bachelor of Engineering degree in Food Science and Engineering from Shanghai Ocean University in 2004. She then received a Master of Science degree in Biochemistry in 2008 from Fudan University at Shanghai, China. In 2013, she earned her doctoral degree in Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Houston at Houston. At present, she is working for DuPont as an associate investigator onsite at the Penn State University. Dr. Hao has also worked as a research assistant for Shanghai Bright Diary Company in 2003-2004, followed with a consultant assistant for Shanghai Qianjin Enterprise Management & Consulting Co., Ltd in 2004-2005. Dr. Hao has presented her scientific research at multiple international conference meetings and workshops, for example, Society of Toxicology annual meeting, American Association of Cancer Research annual meeting, Endocrinology annual meeting, PPTOXII, etc. She has also published her research in the journals including PLOS One, Breast Cancer Research, Fudan University Journal etc. Her memberships include Society of Toxicology (SOT) member, Member of the Food Safety Specialty Section (FSSS) specialty group (SOT), American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) member, The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) member, Endocrine Society member etc. Additionally, Dr. Hao has been recipient of numerous honors and awards including Society of Toxicology Burdock Group Student Travel Award, University of Houston Graduate student travel awards, Graduate assistant tuition fellowship, Graduate student national fellowship, Outstanding graduate student of Shanghai, Outstanding graduate student of Shanghai Ocean University, Excellent leader of Shanghai Ocean University etc. Her leadership roles include Treasurer/secretary of Food Safety Specialty Section at SOT, Treasurer/secretary of Postdoc Association at Penn State University, Lead Secretory (in charge of publicity) of student union at Fudan University, Commissary in charge of organization of Youth League Committee at Shanghai Ocean University, and monitor for many years.

Xiao Pan, PhD, MPH, Councilor
Dr. Xiao Pan received her dual-major PhD in Biochemistry and Environmental Toxicology, and Masters in Public Health from Michigan State University in 2013. The main focus of her PhD research was to characterize the signaling network and molecular mechanisms of food-contaminating mycotoxin deoxynivalenol (DON) using biochemical and proteomic methods. She is currently Senior Scientist in Global Regulatory and Nutrition Science at Mead Johnson Nutrition. Previously she worked as Assistant Professor of food toxicology practice at Michigan State University, and as consultant in food safety and toxicology for the food industry. Dr. Pan currently serves as counselor for Food Safety Specialty Section (FS3) of Society of Toxicology (SOT). During her service as the Graduate Student Representative of FS3 in 2013-2014, Xiao actively participated in FS3 by designing FS3 poster for display at the SOT meeting, contributing to the FS3 newsletter, and managing the FS3 Facebook page. She also served as student representative for Career Resource and Development Committee and Education Subcommittee of SOT. She is author/co-author of 7 peer-reviewed journal articles, and is the winner of 5 SOT awards.
Welcome New Officers - continued

Mansi Krishan, PhD, Councilor

Dr. Mansi Krishan is a Science Program Manager at the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) North America. Dr. Krishan first worked with ILSI North America in 2013 when she was awarded the ILSI North America Technical Committee on Food and Chemical Safety 2013 Summer Fellowship. As the 2013 Summer Fellow, she worked on a project titled “Toxicology and Risk Assessment of Chemical Mixtures”, where she analyzed current risk assessment approaches to describe the landscape of risk assessment for chemical mixtures and assessed the regulatory acceptance of risk assessment frameworks worldwide with a focus on food mixtures. Her work on chemical mixtures was recently recognized at the 50th Congress of the European Societies of Toxicology and she was also selected as one of the 120 global experts to participate in the “European Food Safety Authority Scientific Colloquium N°21: Harmonization of human and ecological risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals” held in September 2014. Dr. Krishan received her doctoral degree in Toxicology from University of Cincinnati in 2013. The focus of her PhD research was to enhance intranasal delivery of nucleoside drugs to the central nervous system. During her PhD, she worked on multiple interdisciplinary projects. These projects ranged from studying the effects of dietary whey protein on mitochondrial activity and oxidative stress in mouse brain to studying the susceptibility to TCDD-induced hepatocellular effects in glutathione deficient mice. Dr. Krishan has authored/co-authored 7 peer-reviewed journal articles and a book chapter. She has received awards at prestigious national and international conferences including 4 SOT awards, EUROTOX 2013 Fellowship and Arthur Furst Award at American College of Toxicology. During her PhD, Dr. Krishan was the recipient of a highly competitive editorial assistantship (2 years) from the University of Cincinnati Graduate School for the International Journal of Toxicology.

Updates from Our Members

Dr. Myra L. Weiner, long-time FSSS member and President of TOXpertise, LLC consulting, recently published a thorough review of the food additive carrageenan, “Food additive carrageenan: Part II: A critical review of carrageenan in vivo safety studies” in Critical Rev. Toxicol. 40 (3): 244-269. She also authored and co-authored four abstracts at SOT on the safety of carrageenan when fed to preweaning piglets in swine-adapted infant formula (2014 SOT Annual Meeting Abstract # 341, 432, 343, 845). The research for the infant formula safety program will be published.

Dr. Xiao Pan, our previous graduate student representative, has recently joined Mead Johnson Nutrition as a Senior Scientist in Global Regulatory and Nutrition Science.

Dr. Brenna Flannery, our postdoctoral representative, has recently joined FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition as an ORISE fellow Toxicologist.

Congratulations to all! We are pleased to share our members’ happiness in making scientific achievements and reaching career milestones. If you have exciting news that you want to share with us, please send to sotfoodsafety@gmail.com.
**2015 Annual Meeting**

January 31, 2015—Early Bird Registration  
February 1, 2015—FS3 Award Submission  
February 28, 2015—Standard Registration

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**FS3-sponsored programs:** *(Please stay tuned for details in the upcoming Annual Meeting Program).*

**Symposium Session:** Role of Gut Microbiome in the Host Response to Xenobiotics  
**Workshop Session:** Evaluating Similarity across Related Complex Mixtures: The Challenge of Herbal Supplements  
**Roundtable Session:** Will Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) Become an Endangered Species?  
**Information Session:** Risk Communication and Management in the Era of Social Media and the Internet: Serving Society’s Needs with Accurate Information

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**Food Safety Specialty Section Awards:**

**Food Safety SS  Burdock Group Travel Awards**

**Candidates:** Full-time graduate students attending Annual Meeting with research interests in the toxicology of food and food ingredients; students early in their graduate training who have not attended an SOT Meeting are particularly encouraged to apply.  
**Requirements:** Letter of request indicating: Student is enrolled in good standing in a masters or doctoral training program (and not possessing another doctoral level degree); How student’s research and training relate to food safety/toxicology (1/2 page or less); Any other travel award received for this meeting or previous meetings; Whether student and major advisor are currently members of Food Safety Specialty Section; Agreement that student will become a member of Food Safety Specialty Section if not already a member; Signatures of student and major academic advisor.  
**Winner receives:** Up to $600 per student to cover meeting expenses not met by other funding or travel awards. The winner will also receive a recognition plaque commemorating the event. There may be up to three winners per year, with the cash award for each winner limited to $500.  
**Contact:** Laurie Dolan  
**Deadline:** 2/1/2015

**Food Safety SS  Frank C. Lu Student Award***

**Candidates:** For one meritorious graduate student abstract presented at the SOT Annual Meeting; abstracts will be judged on methodology/approach, uniqueness/creativity inherent in the project, thoroughness of investigation, hypothesis, soundness of judgment used in interpreting results, and relevance to food safety.  
**Requirements:** Application, including copy of submitted abstract and short summary of work to be presented, with purpose, rationale, and statement of significance and relevance to food safety (two page max; 10 point font size), statement on student’s role in project (three sentences), and signatures of student and primary research advisor.  
**Winner receives:** $600 and a recognition plaque.  
**Contact:** Jaspreet Gujral  
**Deadline:** 2/1/2015

*This award is made possible by the Frank C. Lu Food Safety Student Award Fund of the SOT Endowment.*
**Upcoming Events/Meetings**

**FDA-SOT Colloquia on Emerging Toxicological Science Challenges in Food and Ingredient Safety: 4 sessions***

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is partnering with the Society of Toxicology (SOT) to provide a series of **four half-day training sessions*** that will focus on high quality, cutting-edge, future-oriented toxicological science. These sessions will provide a well-grounded foundation to inform the work of FDA-Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) employees. The colloquia are open to the public and offer participants an opportunity to interact with leading world experts in toxicology. The colloquia are not intended to offer a public forum to discuss or make recommendations to the agency on toxicology regulatory issues.

The four colloquium sessions will focus on: complexities in evaluating human clinical and observational data for ingredient safety assessments, using partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) as a case study; toxicological studies versus computational modeling of ADME/PK; special topics in toxicological endpoints; and risk assessment and risk management. Only registered participants will be allowed to attend the meeting, and there will be no onsite registration. There is no cost to attend in person or through the webcast, but spaces are limited. Please visit the SOT event registration site for additional information on the colloquia and registration.

***Please check FDA or SOT website for the dates of three other sessions.***

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**Society of Risk Analysis (SRA) 2014 Annual Meeting**

**Denver, Colorado**

**December 7-10, 2014**

The Society for Risk Analysis is a remarkable association. Its members are scientists and practitioners trained in multiple disciplines who come from around the world. They are employed by government, industry, consulting firms, NGOs, academic institutions, and themselves. They seek one another’s company because they face problems requiring such diverse perspectives. This diversity of disciplines and perspectives is crucial for gaining better insights into the complex challenges of globalization and can help policy makers to cope with the growing uncertainties and ambiguities of policy making.

**Please check their preliminary program for food safety-related topics**

If you are like me and 70% of the other life science PhDs you accepted a postdoc position upon graduating (NIH, 2012). Whether this position was needed for the next phase of your career or if it was just ‘what graduates are supposed to do,’ you will eventually need to move forward with your career. Some of your intentions were to enter industry all along; while others, like me, were convinced you would strive for an academic position only to realize a non-academic position is more in line with your career goals. So, how do we transition from academics to industry? As I begin to make this transition, here are lessons I have learned thus far:

1. **Network.** It is estimated that between 60 – 80% of jobs are obtained via personal relationships (US Bureau of Labor Statistics). Therefore, make networking a priority when attending lectures, SOT meetings and other conferences. In addition, it is good practice to conduct informational interviews. Seek out someone who is in your desired position and contact them. People are usually more than willing to talk about their careers and the approach they used to attain their career goals. You will learn valuable information on how to attain that position, and you will be expanding your network while speaking the language of industry.

2. **Get involved outside of research.** This will demonstrate you can interact and communicate with others, building your ‘soft skills’. SOT has many ways to get involved including regional volunteer opportunities and serving as a postdoctoral representative for specialty sections, regional chapters and special interest groups. Furthermore, being involved in SOT will enhance your profile and network, potentially bringing opportunities to you.

3. **You must take an active approach** seeking out opportunities rather than waiting for them to come to you. Additionally, it is important to keep an open mind. Being too narrow in your job search will limit your possible opportunities. If you find yourself struggling to obtain a position, consider an internship to obtain experience.

4. **Find your strengths.** Often times we focus too much on the skills we need to improve, not what our true talents are. The book ‘Strengths Finder 2.0’ by Tom Rath ($16) is an excellent resource for determining your strengths. Once you determine what your strengths are and why, you can form a dialogue to communicate with others about yourself.

5. **Practice, practice, practice.** Prepare for job interviews as if you are preparing to give an oral presentation. You will come across to the interviewer as confident, knowledgeable and prepared. Most universities have career centers that are available for postdocs! Use them for CV, cover letter and interview preparation.

6. **Keep track of time.** Often times, the hiring process can take 4 to 12 weeks after the position’s closing date. If you are looking to transition from your postdoc to a position by a certain date, start applying many months in advance. Never feel content in a postdoc, it is impermanent in nature.

7. **Maintain a positive attitude and be persistent.** Being continuously rejected for jobs can be depressing. Just remember that you are not being rejected as a person, but rather the employer is looking for someone with a slightly different skill set or slightly more experience. Non-verbal cues, such as smiling, can affect the way you are perceived in an interview, even a phone interview. So chin up and remember to smile!
In Memory of Dr. Frank Lu  

--Richard Lane, PhD, DABT  
PepsiCo

Dr. Lu published in the field of pharmacology and toxicology for fifty years from 1950-2003. He was publishing before most of us were born. He published with giants in the field of toxicology, like Harold Grice, Jeff Carr, and Fred Coulston, but he was the sole author for most publications. He was not afraid to make his opinion known, but it was always based on fact and well supported by references.

The main point about Dr. Lu, though, and one often missed is that there are safe levels of intake. (I still stand by my comments from a few months ago below.) Additives and contaminants alike can be safely consumed at proper levels. Dr. Lu was one of the people who showed the way to making those determinations, and that is why the Lu Award is so prestigious. It’s one of the key elements in making sure our food supply remains safe. We encourage all, particularly future graduate students applying for the Frank Lu award along with past winners to reflect upon and appreciate what Dr. Lu worked at for so many years.

Below is a list of some very impactful papers to the field of food safety by Dr. Lu. He also co-wrote and co-edited a very nice textbook on toxicology "Lu's Basic Toxicology: Fundamentals, Target Organs and Risk Assessment" that has been through six editions.


A Message from Your Post-doc Representative

Welcome all new postdocs and members of FS3! As a postdoc, you are automatically part of the Postdoctoral Association (PDA) of SOT. The goals of the PDA are to enhance member engagement, strengthen effectiveness of SOT and to build future toxicologists by providing training resources. The PDA hosts many engagement activities that you are encouraged to take part in! These include:

Two newsletters a year called the ‘Posty’. The Posty contains articles and information specifically relevant to postdocs. The last Posy was in August titled, ‘A Postdoc’s Perspective: Bridging the Gap Between Academics and Industry.’

Career webinars. In September the PDA held a webinar titled, ‘Increasing Your Visibility and Participation in SOT as an Early Career Toxicologist.’

Mentor Match. This is a program where you can go on the SOT website and find a mentor with similar career goals as you. There will be a mentoring breakfast held at the 2015 SOT as well.

Best Postdoc Publication Award.

The Postdoc Luncheon at SOT. This is a chance to network with fellow postdocs and win great prizes!

We encourage graduate students who are recent graduates to switch their membership status to ‘postdoc’ as this membership ($15 extra) offers you the excellent resources listed above. January, May and September are when membership status changes are reviewed. Don’t forget other important resources that SOT provides such as the SOT Job Bank (found online)!

Please don’t hesitate to contact me, your FS3 postdoc representative at brenna.flannery@fda.hhs.gov